

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 1 December 2005. It was the 208th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors and guests present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL Bob Bunting, Co-Chair
COL Charles A. Block (USMC)
COL Herman S. Heath
COL James E. Hyer
LTC Clarence R. Collins
LTC James R. Mellish
CDR James E. Cobb (USN)

CSM Charles E. Frye, Co-Chair
CSM William Jolly
SGM Lloyd M. Rogers, Assoc. Sec
1SG Jackie Ray
1SG John J. McCracken, Jr. (USAF)

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL William E. Crouch
SGM William Baker

CSM James W. Harris
SGM Samuel V. MacMaster

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL William S. Larese, Garrison CDR
LTC Antonio Lora, LAHC
Ms. Deborah Seimer, AG
Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary
Mr. Tim Laster, DMWR
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO

2. CSM Frye called the meeting to order at 1135.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
4. Old Business – None
5. Committee Reports

- a. Public Affairs – The Retiree Council requested support from the Public Affairs Office. It is requested that the PAO or representative attend the meetings. Each member was given a copy of the post calendar for the month of December.
- b. Legislative Affairs - COL Hyer reported the Senate passed a bill ending the reduction of VA survivor benefits from SBP when the member's death is related to military service. Congress is on recess until 5 December and will recess again 16 December 2005. There is a lot of work to be done in a short period if the Military Appropriations Bill is to be passed before the Christmas recess. The Military Construction Bill was signed which included a new post headquarters building for Ft Rucker. The BRAC is now official having been signed by the President.
- c. Health Care – No report.
- d. Volunteers Program – SGM Rogers reported the Volunteer of the Month was Ms. Therese Erthal and will be recognized on 13 December in Building 5700, Room 282 at 1030.
- e. Consolidated Club System – COL Block reported the Club System is showing improvement and elimination of the utilities bill should allow the system to operate in the "black" next year.
- f. Commissary - Mr. O'Meara reported plenty of holiday merchandise on hand. Everyone received a schedule of the holiday hours for the commissary. The commissary needs sufficient notice for special requests in order to fill them.
- g. PX – CDR Cobb reported the PX manager has arrived and is still in-processing but should attend our next meeting. During the month of December, the PX will have an "early bird" sale on 26 December starting at 0700. There will be a midnight sale on 15 December. CDR Cobb also provided sales hand outs from the PX.
- h. Golf Course – COL Heath reported the golf course showed profits for September and October. Future scheduled renovations include: repairing cart paths; a new irrigation system; uniform "tee" boxes; and over-seeding of the greens. A "greens" manager has been hired. A Christmas sale for professional quality equipment will be held 9-11 December in the Pro shop. A holiday scramble is scheduled 16 December. Players bringing in a \$10 international phone card will have that amount deducted from the entry fee. Collected cards will be sent to soldiers deployed in a combat zone. A "ham shoot" is scheduled for 17 December.
- i. Equestrian Center - COL Heath reported the show season is over until March 2006. A "poker run" is scheduled for 2 December.

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j. Outdoor Recreation – 1SG Ray invited those interested in hunting and fishing to attend the advisory meetings held each month on the third Wednesday at 1000 at the West Beach Snack Bar. The deer harvest during bow season was very poor with only five deer harvested.

k. Bowling Alley – CSM Jolley reported that children will be able to bowl for \$6 on 20-30 December from 1100 until 1600. There will be a family oriented New Year's Eve celebration on 30-31 December from 2100 until 0100. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$11 for children over 3 years old. The bowling alley will provide a buffet including cold cuts, hot dogs, chips and dip, potato salad, cookies, sodas and sparkling grape juice for a midnight toast.

l. RAD – The council members voted to schedule the RAD for 27–28 October 2006. LTC Mellish apologized for missing the last meeting and thanked all of the Council members who worked during the RAD.

6. Advisors Comments –

a. COL Larese reported the new gym will be dedicated on 9 December by General Cody, Vice C/S for the Army followed by the Aviation Ball that evening.

b. Ms. Seimer stated the ID card section of AG would be closed on December 13th for equipment upgrade.

c. Mr. Laster reported the last Prime Rib Night only had two customers. It will only be held the last Saturday of the month, except for December. A holiday tree lighting ceremony will be on 1 December with music starting at 1700. At the Aviators' Landing "Breakfast with Santa" will be 17 December from 0900-1200 for children accompanied by their parents. The cost will be \$5 with drawings for girls' and boys' bikes. The High Rise Sports Bar will have the Army-Navy game on large screen TV on 3 December and will offer free food.

d. Mr. Moore asked the Council for input on who to invite for guest speakers for the RAD. He would like to request the speakers early before their agenda is full.

7. New Business – The advisors were excused and the Council selected the following issues to go forward to the Army C/S for the Retiree Council:

a. Military retirees should be provided free motorcycle safety courses.

b. Authorization for "Space Available" travel for spouse/surviving spouses of military retirees.

c. Inconsistent policy on payment of interest pertaining to the Survivor Benefit Plan.

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d. Non-availability of optometry and audiologist services for persons enrolled in TRICARE for Life.

8. Co-Chairman's Comments –None

9. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1250. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators Landing on 5 January 2006 at 1130.

Approved via email 12/7/05

BOB BUNTING
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via email 12/7/05

CHARLES E. FRYE
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via email 12/7/05

LLOYD M. ROGERS
SGM, Retired
Association Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William S. Larese', is written over a horizontal line.

WILLIAM S. LARESE
Colonel, Aviation
Garrison Commander